

Applicant: Nick et al.
Application No.: 10/727,839
Examiner: C. Fox

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) Loading apparatus for a vehicle, ~~with~~ comprising:
a loading floor provisioned in a loading area of the vehicle, ~~with~~
elements for the a vertical height adjustment of the loading floor within the loading area;
~~with~~ elements for the a horizontal movement of the loading floor, specifically for
extending and retracting the loading floor out of and into the loading area; and ~~with~~
drive elements for driving the elements for the vertical height adjustment of the loading
floor, wherein the drive elements also serve to drive the elements for the horizontal movement of
the loading floor.
2. (Currently amended) Loading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the elements for
the vertical height adjustment of the loading floor ~~exhibit~~ include parallelogram steering
elements, and at least one of the parallelogram steering elements ~~can be~~ is driven by the drive
elements.
3. (Currently amended) Loading apparatus according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the
parallelogram steering elements ~~exhibits~~ includes a toothed segment, and the drive elements
~~exhibit~~ include a shaft~~[[,]]~~ which is configured for driving the toothed segment.
4. (Currently amended) Loading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the toothed
segment is configured to have a curved shape, ~~in particular~~ in the form of a circular segment.
5. (Currently amended) Loading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the elements for
the horizontal movement of the loading floor ~~exhibit~~ include a rack, which is provisioned
between at least two parallelogram steering elements, ~~which are provisioned one after the other~~
linearly in the direction of the horizontal movement of the loading floor, and wherein the drive
elements ~~exhibit~~ include a shaft, ~~which is~~ configured to introduce a driving force to the rack for

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the horizontal movement of the loading floor.

6. (Currently amended) Loading apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the elements for horizontal movement of the loading floor include a rack which is provisioned with the toothed segment and the rack are provisioned such that the shaft runs over the toothed segment during the vertical height adjustment of the loading floor, and that the shaft runs over the rack during the horizontal movement of the loading floor.

7. (Currently amended) Loading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the drive elements are provisioned on ~~the~~ a lower side of the loading floor in the a retracted state, on ~~the~~ a side of the loading floor across from a loading edge.

8. (Currently amended) Loading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the drive elements ~~exhibit~~ include an electric drive mechanism.

9. (Currently amended) Loading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein input elements are provisioned for inputting movement commands into a control device for the loading floor, and ~~with~~ includes elements for automatically opening ~~and/or~~ and closing a rear hatch of the vehicle, where the elements for automatically opening and closing the rear hatch of the vehicle are coupled to the control device such that the rear hatch opens when the loading floor is extended, ~~and/or so that~~ and the rear hatch closes when the loading floor is retracted.

10. (New) An extendable loading floor for a vehicle comprising:
a vertical height adjustment element for vertically raising the loading floor above a loading edge of the vehicle;
a horizontal positioning element for extending and retracting the loading floor out of and into a loading area of the vehicle; and
a drive motor operable connected to the vertical height adjustment element and the horizontal positioning element.

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11. (New) An extendable loading floor as set forth in claim 10 wherein at least a portion of the vertical height adjustment element and the horizontal positioning element are adjacently positioned.
12. (New) An extendable loading floor as set forth in claim 11 wherein in a first position the drive motor engages the vertical height adjustment element, raising the loading floor above the loading edge of the vehicle.
13. (New) An extendable loading floor as set forth in claim 12 wherein in a second position the drive motor engages the horizontal positioning element, extending the loading floor out of the loading area of the vehicle.
14. (New) An extendable loading floor as set forth in claim 13 wherein the vertical height adjustment element includes a toothed segment and the drive motor includes a shaft, such that the shaft engages the toothed segment in the first position.
15. (New) An extendable loading floor as set forth in claim 14 wherein the horizontal positioning element includes a rack portion having a first end positioned adjacent to the toothed segment of the vertical height adjustment element, such that the shaft of the drive motor engages the rack in the second position.
16. (New) An extendable loading floor as set forth in claim 10 further comprising a control device including input elements for controlling the extension and retraction of the loading floor.
17. (New) An extendable loading floor as set forth in claim 16 further comprising a vehicle hatch controller for opening and closing a rear hatch of the vehicle.
18. (New) An extendable loading floor as set forth in claim 17 wherein the vehicle hatch

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controller is operably connected to the control device such that rear hatch is opened to extend the loading floor.

19. (New) An extendable loading floor as set forth in claim 18 wherein vehicle hatch controller is operably connected to the control device such that the rear hatch is closed after the loading floor is retracted.